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May 24, 2011

Mr. Julius Genachowski
 Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, SW
 Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

My name is William Lucy and I am president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), an organization with more than 50 chapters nationwide. I am also the former International Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and for nearly 30 years, I have proudly worked through CBTU to promote progressive change on a range of issues.

I write to support AT&T's effort to merge with T-Mobile. AT&T is the only unionized wireless service provider and unlike other wireless companies, AT&T has treated its union locals with respect, maintaining a policy of neutrality regarding union representation.

As the Commission considers this issue (Docket 11-65), it should recognize the extreme unemployment facing much of the nation. On May 6, the U.S. Labor Department reported its monthly jobs figures. For African-Americans, the news could hardly have been worse. According to this report, the percentage of African-American men with a job has dropped to its lowest level since record keeping began in 1972.¹

The American economy desperately needs to start creating jobs. By promptly approving the AT&T-T-Mobile merger, the Commission will signal its support for a national investment of an additional \$8 billion into wireless deployment. That is the kind of action that will sustain jobs for working families and ensure that these jobs stay in our communities. It will also set the foundation for better opportunities in education and economic development.

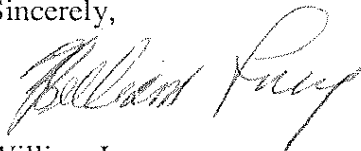
For anyone concerned about workers rights, approval of the AT&T-T-Mobile merger should be a top priority. This merger is supported by America's leading unions, including the Communications Workers of America, the AFL-CIO, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the United Food & Commercial Workers International Union. At a time of unprecedented hostility to collective bargaining in many states, this is a chance for the FCC to

take a public stand not only for more investment in faster Internet service but also for the organizing rights of tens of thousands of workers.

With AT&T's continued partnership with labor organizations and its commitment to providing the nation with health, education, and sustainability solutions, this merger will bring great growth and innovation. It will spur \$8 billion in additional investment, lead to faster and more accessible wireless Internet service and protect the interests of tens of thousands of working men and women across the country.

Thank you for considering this letter and please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this.

Sincerely,



William Lucy
President

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell

ⁱ Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/yblog_thelookout/20110510/bs_yblog_thelookout/employment-rate-for-black-men-at-record-low